

WO- 272  
Peter Whaley Homeplace  
Whaleyville vicinity  
Private

c. 1810

Located east of Whaleyville near the old Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic railroad right-of-way, the old Peter Whaley homeplace, comprising a 175-acre farm, included this two-story stepped farmhouse dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Following a hall/parlor plan and finished with Federal style woodwork, the main block was supported on a raised common bond brick foundation. The attached kitchen wing was built at the same time as the main house, and both sections were sheathed with locally made split wood shingles.

Peter Whaley, Jr. (1830-1909) inherited this farm from his father, Peter Whaley, Sr. (1799-1860), who has purchased the land from John P. R. Gilliss. Peter Whaley, Jr., one of the wealthiest farmers in northern Worcester County during the second half of the nineteenth century, is designated as owning this farm on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, but his principal residence was evidently in Whaleyville. He is included in the atlas patron list as a merchant and railroad agent. Peter Whaley, Jr. evidently owned this farm, which included 175 acres as well as other tracts in the Whaleyville vicinity. He probably had tenants minding the farms while he tended to his other businesses. The 1870 U. S. Census estimated his personal and real estate holdings at \$24,000, a relatively high sum for the time. After Peter Whaley, Jr.'s death in 1909, the farm remained in Whaley family hands through much of the twentieth century.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Peter Witaley, Jr. Farm  
MHT Inventory Number: WU-272

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):  
ARCHITECTURE  
AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation:  
EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION  
(1880-1915)
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
STANDING STRUCTURE  
1. PLANTATION DWELLING

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-272

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic PETER WHALEY HOMEPLACE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number North side of Circle Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Whaleyville ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Oliver Smith

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Bishopville state and zip code MD 21813

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 694

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 138

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. W0-272

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Peter Whaley homeplace is located on the north side of Circle Road east of the small village of Whaleyville, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, four-bay frame house, now in an advanced state of deterioration, faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1810, the two-story, four-bay frame dwelling is supported on a raised common bond brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with wood shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles as well. Formerly attached to the east gable end was a single-story colonnade that joined the single-story one-room plan kitchen. Attached to the back (north) side of the main block is a turn of the century single-story addition.

The south (main) elevation is an uneven four-bay facade with a slightly off center entrance and flanking window openings. The entrance has a three-light transom, however the front door as well as the window sash are gone. A gable roofed stoop once sheltered the front entrance and was distinguished by chamfered posts interspersed with an arched board decoration. Lighting the second floor were four unevenly spaced six-over-six sash window openings. The base to the roof was finished with a boxed cornice with period bed and crown moldings and decorative end boards.

The gable ends, finished with a molded bargeboard, had second floor and attic window openings flanking the interior end brick chimney stacks.

The house originally followed a hall/parlor plan with a closed stringer stair rising against the center partition. The interior has been largely stripped of its original woodwork, but cyma curve backband surrounds frame the window and door openings, and Federal style chair rail remains in sections. The main front room or hall was originally finished with vertical board walls that were later covered with wallboard. The western room or parlor was always finished with lath and plaster.

The second floor is divided by a center hall that separates two rooms to the west from a large room on the east side of the house. Part of the attic stair remains with a molded surround framing the attic stair closet opening. Also evident on the closet surround is the ghost of the former H-shaped hinges. A section of molded handrail and a few balusters remain on the second floor as well.

The single-story kitchen is a two-bay by one-room wood shingled frame structure also sadly deteriorated. The colonnade that joined the main house and kitchen has collapsed completely. The kitchen is a lightly framed structure sheathed with wide pine boards under a layer of exterior cyrus shingles. The kitchen is supported by brick piers, and evident on the east gable end is the patch of a former exposed brick firewall. The interior contains a disintegrating corner stair.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-272

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Whaley homeplace is a seriously deteriorated two-story hall/parlor frame house built during the first quarter of nineteenth century. Following a hall/parlor plan and finished with Federal style woodwork, the main block was supported by a raised common bond brick foundation, an unusual feature for houses in northern Worcester County. The attached kitchen wing was built at the same time as the main house.

Peter Whaley, Jr. (1830–1909) inherited this farm from his father, Peter Whaley, Sr. (1799–1860), who has purchased the land from John P. R. Gilliss. Peter Whaley, Jr., one of the wealthiest farmers in northern Worcester County during the second half of the nineteenth century, is designated as owning this farm on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, but his principal residence was evidently in Whaleyville. He is included in the atlas patron list as a merchant and railroad agent. Peter Whaley, Jr. evidently owned this farm, which included 175 acres as well as other tracts in the Whaleyville vicinity. He probably had tenants minding the farms while he tended to his other businesses. The 1870 U. S. Census estimated his personal and real estate holdings at \$24,000, a relatively high sum for the time. After Peter Whaley, Jr.'s death in 1909, the farm remained in Whaley family hands through much of the twentieth century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-272

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private consultant/Worcester Co. date 1/20/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

WO-272  
PETER WHALEY HOMEPLACE  
Whaleyville vicinity  
Chain of title

694/138 Vincent Collins Elliot, Elizabeth Davis,  
Dennis Elliot

to

12/5/1979 J. Oliver Smith, Jr.  
Janice M. Smith  
"all that land of which the late Peter  
Whaley died siezed known as the "Home  
Farm" 175 acres

CWN 51/77 C. Wilbur Keas, et al. William Whaley,  
Virginia H. Whaley, et al

to

2/15/1952 Vincent Collins Elliot  
Elizabeth D. Elliot  
175 acres

ODC 40/262 Walter P. Whaley  
Josephine D. Whaley

to

1/15/1921 Elizabeth W. Keas, Belle W. Keas, William  
Whaley, Walter P. Whaley, Beulah W. McCabe,  
Walter P. Whaley, and Josephine D. Whaley

ODC 40/262 William Whaley, trustee

to

7/15/1916 Walter P. Whaley \$4000.00  
Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court sitting

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Page 2

PETER WHALEY HOMEPLACE

Whaleyville vicinity

Chain of title

in equity passed 4/29/1916 Case No. 2711  
William Whaley vs. Beulah McCabe

"Home Place" of said Peter Whaley and is  
situated on the north side of the  
Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic  
Railway Company's track 175 acres

Last will and testament of Peter Whaley, Sr.

to, son

Written  
3/7/1857  
Proved  
8/1/1860

Peter--farm on which he now resides,  
purchased of John P. R. Gilliss



WO-272  
 PETER WHALEY, JR. FARM  
 Whaleyville, MD.- DEL. Quadrangle  
 1942

BALTIMORE AND EASTERN

Longridge

Longridge Swamp





Middle Branch

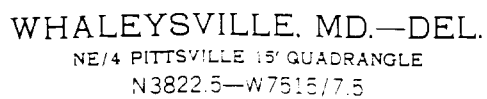
477000m E

38°22'30" N

75°15'

38°22'30"  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20541  
477000m E. 75°15'

Heavy-duty  Light-duty   
 Medium-duty  Unimproved dirt   
 U.S. Route State Route



AMS 5960 IV NE-SERIES V833